

trawl collections, 12-ii-1975, K. V. Rama Rao Coll.

Description: D₁ 6; D₂ 1+10; A 1+9; P 17; V 5; C 14; L.I. 45; L. tr. 14.

Measurements (in mm): Total length 74, Standard length 58, Head length 21, Snout length 7, Eye diameter 4, Inter-orbital space 2, Post orbital length 12, Snout to: 1st dorsal fin 22, 2nd dorsal fin 33, anal fin 36, Pectoral fin 21, Pelvic fin 21; Height of the body 16, Width of the body 11, Length of the: base of 1st dorsal fin 13, 2nd dorsal fin 15, Anal

fin 13, Pectoral fin 18, Pelvic fin 16.

Remarks: This specimen agrees with the original description and the figure in all aspects. The specimen has been deposited in the collections of Zoological Survey of India, Madras.

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23. A NOTE ON THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF *CTENOTRYPAUCHEN MICROCEPHALUS* (BLEEKER) (FAM. TAENIOIDIDAE) (With two text-figures)

Hora (1924) discussed the systematic status of Bleeker's *Trypauchen microcephalus* and assigned it to *Ctenotrypauchen* Steindachner. However, there has been considerable confusion regarding its systematic status. The causes for the confusion and the up-to-date systematic position of the species are briefly discussed in this note.

Two subfamilies are recognised in the family Taenioididae, the Taenioininae and the Trypaucheninae. The separation of these subfamilies is largely based on the possession by the Trypaucheninae of a pouch-like cavity over each opercle, lacking in the Taenioininae. *Ctenotrypauchen* Steindachner is referable to the subfamily Trypaucheninae and the other genera recognised in the subfamily being *Try-*

pauchen Cuvier and Valenciennes, *Amblyotrypauchen* Hora, *Caragobius* Smith and Seale and *Trypauchenichthys* Bleeker. The members of the subfamily are all characterised by long dorsal and anal fins fully united to or closely continuous to the caudal fin, minute eyes, absent or more or less rudimentary scales, and very oblique mouth (Fig. 1).

The members of the subfamily are very difficult to distinguish based on any of the



Fig. 1. Lateral view of *Ctenotrypauchen microcephalus* (Bleeker).

external morphological characters except the nature of the pelvic fins which are either completely united to form a funnel shaped disc (*Trypauchen* and *Caragobius*) or wholly (*Trypauchenichthys*) or partly separated (*Amblyotrypauchen*). In the case of *Ctenotrypauchen* the pelvic fins are more or less united like *Trypauchen* but they do not form a complete funnel shaped disc, the disc being slightly emarginate at the posterior end (Fig. 2).

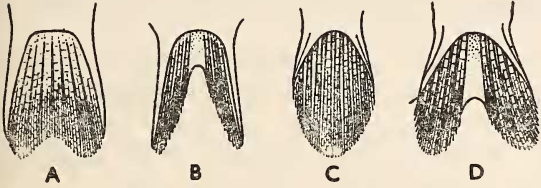


Fig. 2. A. Pelvic fin of *Ctenotrypauchen*; B. Pelvic fin of *Trypauchenichthys*; C. Pelvic fin of *Trypauchen*, and D. Pelvic fin of *Amblyotrypauchen* (Modified after Hora 1924).

The pelvic fins of *Ctenotrypauchen* are liable to be easily torn apart while collecting or handling the specimen thereby creating confusion in its identity. Koumans (1931:144) evidently had a specimen of *Ctenotrypauchen*

in which the pelvic fins were separated to the base resembling the pelvic fin of *Trypauchenichthys*. In his later work Koumans (1941) had rectified his mistake and transferred the species to *Ctenotrypauchen*. The emarginate nature of the pelvic disc is a very characteristic feature of *Ctenotrypauchen* which is often overlooked by workers and the fish wrongly placed under *Trypauchen* or *vice-versa* (Smith 1953).

SYNONYMS

Ctenotrypauchen microcephalus (Bleeker)
 1860. *Trypauchen microcephalus* Bleeker, *Act. Soc. Sci. Indo-Neerl.* 8:62 (type locality: Borneo).
 1924. *Ctenotrypauchen microcephalus* Hora, *Rec. Indian Mus.* 26:160.
 1931. *Trypauchen microcephalus* Hardenberg, *Treubia* 13:417, fig. 6.
 1936. *Trypauchen vagina microcephalus* Tomiyama, *Jap. J. Zool.* 7:103.
 1941. *Ctenotrypauchen microcephalus* Koumans, *Mem. Indian Mus.* 13(3):307.
 1953. *Trypauchen microcephalus* Smith, *Sea Fish. South. Afr.*: 338, pl. 69, fig. 937.
 1953. *Ctenotrypauchen microcephalus* Koumans, *Fish. Indo-Austr. archip.* 10:282, fig. 71.
 1974. *Centrotrypauchen microcephalus* Orsi, *Publ. Seto Mar. Biol. Lab.* 21(3-4): 174 (misspelt for *Ctenotrypauchen*).

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